GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1949
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2001
SHORTAGE OF COINS IN GUJARAT
DINSHA J. PATEL

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the shortage of coins in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether the Government are also aware of the soiled and mutilated currency notes are in circulation in Gujarat; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps to mitigate the problem of shortage of coins and circulation of soiled and mutilated currency notes in Gujarat State. The quantity of coins supplied to the Gujarat State increased from 204.78 million pieces (MPCs) during 1999-2000 to 307.04 MPCs during 2000-2001. And, during the current year, 156.80 MPCsof coins or 51.07% of the last year`s supply have already been supplied to Gujarat State in just 3 months. In addition, the Regional Office of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) at Ahmedabad is ensuring regular supply of coins to various currency chest branches of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in different parts of Gujarat State to ensure proper distribution of coins in the State.

Special efforts have also been made in Gujarat to withdraw soiled and mutilated currency notes from circulation. During 2000-2001, 279.45 MPCs of soiled and mutilated currency notes were withdrawn from circulation and during the first two months of the current year, 46.31 MPCs of soiled and mutilated currency notes have already been withdrawn. RBI, Ahmedabad Regional Office has also commissioned mobile van services with the assistance of other PSBs in important cities of Gujarat to retrieve soiled and mutilated currency notes from members of public in exchange of coins besides opening special counters in its office to provide exchange facility to the public.